

Message Text

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15

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R 261612Z APR 76

FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7465

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL QUEBEC

UNCLAS MONTREAL 521

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, CA

SUBJ: COMMON FRONT SITUATION IN MONTREAL

REF: MONTREAL 510 AND PREVIOUS

1. MONTREAL AREA SCHOOL SITUATION GENERALLY NORMAL APRIL 26. HOWEVER UNIONS REPRESENTING TEACHERS AND HOSPITAL WORKERS HAVE THREATENED FURTHER WALKOUTS ON MAY 1 UNLESS GOVERNMENT RESUMES NEGOTIATIONS. GOVERNMENT ON OTHER HAND HAS ANNOUNCED THERE WILL BE NO BARGAINING SO LONG AS DEFIANCE OF BACK-TO-WORK LEGISLATION CONTINUES.

2. EDITORIALS IN WEEKEND EDITIONS MAJOR MONTREAL DAILIES CALLED FOR RETURN TO NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE IRREPARABLE DAMAGE IS DONE. BOTH LE DEVOIR AND LE JOUR PUT MAJOR BLAME FOR DETERIORATION OF SITUATION ON QUEBEC TEACHERS CORPORATION. CLAUDE RYAN IN LE DEVOIR CALLED ON DISPUTING PARTIES TO COMMUNICATE WITH ONE ANOTHER THROUGH THE PRESS IF NECESSARY SO THAT SEARCH FOR SOLUTION CAN GO ON. MONTREAL STAR SAW GOVERNMENT-APPOINTED INQUIRY COMMISSION AS QUOTE ONLY VOICE OF SANITY IN THE WHOLE MESS UNQUOTE AND CALLED ON WORKERS AND MANAGEMENT, I.E., GOVERNMENT, TO PAY THEM HEED.

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3. WEEKEND ANGLOPHONE DAILIES CARRIED LARGE ADS BY ASSOCIATION

OF CATHOLIC PRINCIPALS OF MONTREAL CALLING FOR REPEAL OF BILL 23 WHICH IT TERMED UNJUST, OPPRESSIVE AND DESTRUCTIVE. THE GAZETTE ALSO CARRIED AD BY MONTREAL TEACHERS ASSOCIATION QUOTING STATEMENTS BY UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS, EDITORIALISTS, COMMENTATORS AND CHURCHMEN OPPOSING BILL 23.

4. COMMENT: QUEBEC COMMON FRONT LEADERS HAVE BEEN TRYING FOR SOME YEARS, WITH MIXED SUCCESS, TO GAIN POPULAR SUPPORT FOR THE OBSERVATION IN QUEBEC OF MAY 1 AS INTERNATIONAL WORKERS DAY. UNLESS CURRENT DISPUTE IS SETTLED BY THEN, THE LEADERS CAN BE EXPECTED TO USE IT TO ACHIEVE THE MASS BACKING THEY HAVE LACKED IN THE PAST.
HARPER

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